

Reagan Urges Loosing Rein on President, CIA

CHICAGO (AP) — Ronald Reagan called yesterday for lifting recently imposed congressional restraints on presidential conduct of foreign policy and on covert activities of the CIA.

In a speech to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations and at a news conference, Reagan urged an end to the system under which he said eight congressional committees now must be briefed on CIA covert activities. He called for a return to the system under which a select group of senior members of the House and Senate were kept informed.

Reagan's speech to the council and a later appearance at the Polish National Alliance, an insurance company, wound up his campaign for today's Illinois presidential primary election.

In response to a question, Reagan said congressional restraints enacted since the Vietnam war were unnecessary and that a president ought to be able to "make some decisions as commander in chief and then tell Congress what he has done."

Asked later at the news conference to elaborate, Reagan said, "We've had, what is it, five declared wars in the history of this nation," but that U.S. troops have been ordered into combat 125 times.

Citing congressional oversight of the CIA as another example of undue involvement of Congress, Reagan said, "There are certain congressional leaders, combinations of chairmen of certain congressional committees, that in the past have been apprised of everything the CIA is doing. I think this could work."

"We've got honorable men in the Senate and House who could make sure the people's interests are protected and at the same time keep the secrets," he said.

The method described by Reagan was in effect until it was altered by Congress after disclosures of abuses of the CIA's authority, including agency involvement in foreign



RONALD REAGAN
Decries 'vacillation'

assassination plots and domestic surveillance.

A special commission headed by then-Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, and including Reagan as a member, investigated the allegations, as did congressional committees.

The former California governor made a point of saying he was not asking for unilateral authority "to go to war."

Reagan cited the Israeli raid on the Entebbe airport in Uganda to rescue passengers from a hijacked airliner as an example of military action a president might have to take.

"I would think then that you would instantly notify the Congress," he said.

In his speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, Reagan said the Carter administration is pursuing a foreign policy of "vacillation, appeasement and aimlessness."

He also said President Carter's increase in the defense budget "leaves us totally unable to match the Soviet buildup" and added that the United States now is second to the Soviet Union in military strength.